



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Committee Bill No. 5056

LCO No. 2489

02489HB05056PS_

Referred to Committee on Public Safety and Security

Introduced by:
(PS)

***AN ACT RAISING THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE
AND MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 29-3a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

3 (a) After graduation from the State Police Training Academy, and
4 before becoming a sworn member of the Division of State Police within
5 the Department of Public Safety, all state police trainees shall have
6 received a high school diploma or an equivalent approved by the state
7 Department of Education. Nothing in this section shall prohibit
8 prospective state police applicants from being admitted to the State
9 Police Training Academy without having received either the high
10 school diploma or equivalent.

11 (b) Not later than five years after becoming a sworn member of the
12 Division of State Police within the Department of Public Safety, such
13 sworn member shall obtain an associate's degree.

14 Sec. 2. Subsections (b) to (f), inclusive, of section 7-294d of the

15 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
16 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

17 (b) No person may be employed as a police officer by any law
18 enforcement unit for a period exceeding one year unless [he] such
19 person has been certified under the provisions of subsection (a) of this
20 section or has been granted an extension by the council. No person
21 may serve as a police officer during any period when his or her
22 certification has been cancelled or revoked pursuant to the provisions
23 of subsection [(c)] (d) of this section. In addition to the requirements of
24 this subsection, the council may establish other qualifications for the
25 employment of police officers and require evidence of fulfillment of
26 these qualifications. The certification of any police officer who is not
27 employed by a law enforcement unit for a period of time in excess of
28 two years, unless such officer is on leave of absence, shall be
29 considered lapsed. Upon reemployment as a police officer, such officer
30 shall apply for recertification in a manner provided by the council. The
31 council shall certify any applicant who presents evidence of
32 satisfactory completion of a program or course of instruction in
33 another state equivalent in content and quality to that required in this
34 state, provided [he] such applicant passes an examination or
35 evaluation as required by the council.

36 (c) Not later than five years after employment as a police officer by
37 any law enforcement unit, such police officer shall obtain an associate's
38 degree.

39 [(c)] (d) (1) The council may refuse to renew any certificate if the
40 holder fails to meet the requirements for renewal of his or her
41 certification.

42 (2) The council may cancel or revoke any certificate if: (A) The
43 certificate was issued by administrative error, (B) the certificate was
44 obtained through misrepresentation or fraud, (C) the holder falsified
45 any document in order to obtain or renew any certificate, (D) the
46 holder has been convicted of a felony, (E) the holder has been found

47 not guilty of a felony by reason of mental disease or defect pursuant to
48 section 53a-13, (F) the holder has been convicted of a violation of
49 subsection (c) of section 21a-279 or section 29-9, (G) the holder has
50 been refused issuance of a certificate or similar authorization or has
51 had his or her certificate or other authorization cancelled or revoked
52 by another jurisdiction on grounds which would authorize
53 cancellation or revocation under the provisions of this subdivision, (H)
54 the holder has been found by a law enforcement unit, pursuant to
55 procedures established by such unit, to have used a firearm in an
56 improper manner which resulted in the death or serious physical
57 injury of another person, or (I) the holder has been found by a law
58 enforcement unit, pursuant to procedures established by such unit, to
59 have committed any act that would constitute tampering with or
60 fabricating physical evidence in violation of section 53a-155, perjury in
61 violation of section 53a-156 or false statement in the second degree in
62 violation of section 53a-157b. Whenever the council believes there is a
63 reasonable basis for cancellation or revocation of the certification of a
64 police officer, police training school or law enforcement instructor, it
65 shall give notice and an adequate opportunity for a hearing prior to
66 such cancellation or revocation. The council may cancel or revoke any
67 certificate if, after a de novo review, it finds by clear and convincing
68 evidence (i) a basis set forth in subparagraphs (A) to (G), inclusive, of
69 this subdivision, or (ii) that the holder of the certificate committed an
70 act set forth in subparagraph (H) or (I) of this subdivision. Any police
71 officer or law enforcement instructor whose certification is cancelled or
72 revoked pursuant to this section may reapply for certification no
73 sooner than two years after the date on which the cancellation or
74 revocation order becomes final. Any police training school whose
75 certification is cancelled or revoked pursuant to this section may
76 reapply for certification at any time after the date on which such order
77 becomes final.

78 [(d)] (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this
79 section, any police officer, except a probationary candidate, who is
80 serving under full-time appointment on July 1, 1982, shall be deemed

81 to have met all certification requirements and shall be automatically
82 certified by the council in accordance with the provisions of subsection
83 (a) of section 7-294e.

84 [(e)] (f) The provisions of this section shall apply to any person who
85 performs police functions. As used in this subsection, "performs police
86 functions" for a person who is not a police officer, as defined in section
87 7-294a, means that in the course of his or her official duties, such
88 person carries a firearm and exercises arrest powers pursuant to
89 section 54-1f or engages in the prevention, detection or investigation of
90 crime, as defined in section 53a-24. The council shall establish criteria
91 by which the certification process required by this section shall apply
92 to police officers.

93 [(f)] (g) The provisions of this section shall not apply to (1) any state
94 police training school or program, (2) any sworn member of the
95 Division of State Police within the Department of Public Safety, (3)
96 Connecticut National Guard security personnel, when acting within
97 the scope of their National Guard duties, who have satisfactorily
98 completed a program of police training conducted by the United States
99 Army or Air Force, (4) employees of the Judicial Department, (5)
100 municipal animal control officers appointed pursuant to section 22-
101 331, or (6) fire police appointed pursuant to section 7-313a. The
102 provisions of this section with respect to renewal of certification upon
103 satisfactory completion of review training programs shall not apply to
104 any chief inspector or inspector in the Division of Criminal Justice who
105 has satisfactorily completed a program of police training conducted by
106 the division.

107 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 7-294aa of the general statutes is
108 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
109 *October 1, 2011*):

110 (b) The Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall not
111 cancel or revoke the certification of a police officer during the period
112 such officer is participating in international peacekeeping operations

113 outside the United States in accordance with subsection (a) of this
114 section and for a period of six months after such officer returns to the
115 United States, except for a reason specified in subsection [(c)] (d) of
116 section 7-294d, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-3a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	7-294d(b) to (f)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	7-294aa(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To develop more highly educated municipal and state police forces.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. SERRA, 33rd Dist.

H.B. 5056